According to Reprieve more people have been executed in 2020 in **Egypt** than in any other year since President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi took office in 2014. 85 people have been executed in Egypt this year so far. At least 41 people have been hanged since 3 October 2020 alone. Just one of these is Father Isaiah, a Coptic monk sentenced to death in April 2019 for killing the abbot of a desert monastery after 'confessing' under torture. A wide and vaguely-defined range of terrorism-related offenses (often associated with political opposition) are punishable by death.

According to figures published by Amnesty International and the BBC, Iran topped the league for recorded **executions** in 2019 with 251. Next came Saudi Arabia (184), Iraq (100) and Egypt (37). These account for 86% of the world's known total. Figures for China are a state secret but death sentences are estimated to be in the thousands.

In October 2020 in **Argentina** 18 people went on trial in Argentina, charged with torture, baby thefts and killings carried out in three detention centres under military rule between 1976 and 1983. More than 400 witnesses are expected to give evidence during the trial, which is expected to take at least two years. The accused include the former head of police investigations in Buenos Aires, at least one leader of a detention centre, and a doctor.

**Nigeria** has dissolved its Special Anti-Robbery Squad (Sars) which is widely accused of police brutality, including unlawful arrests, torture and murder. Officers will be redeployed and a team of investigators set up to investigate alleged abuses by Sars (October 2020).

In the **UK** the government presented its Overseas Operations Bill in September which aims to decriminalise torture and other crimes against humanity by British service personnel if the events are more than five years old. Derogation from current international human rights legislation is also considered. Critics claim that the measure would provide de facto impunity from prosecution and harm the UK's standing abroad. The government argues that the bill is designed simply to end vexations claims of abuse.